POWER TRANSMISSION

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Abstract

PURPOSE:To protect the engagement force of a friction clutch and reduce the size of a motor by employing the friction clutch for connecting a pair of transmission shafts capable of free relative rotation, and a cam for converting the torque of a motor into a thrust for connecting the friction clutch. CONSTITUTION:An output shaft 45 is inserted for free relative rotation into an input shaft 35. A friction clutch 61 is constituted with friction plates 57, 59 which engages with splines 53, 55 formed on clutch drums 49, 51 in free movement to the axial direction. A cam is provided for converting the torque of a motor 67 into a thrust for connecting the friction clutch 61. On the cam face of this cam, portions which do not convert the torque into thrust are formed in steps. Thus, the size of the motor is reduced and the motor current may be turned off in each engaged condition, and therefore the motor is prevented from a burn and the power consumption is reduced.

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54. Title of Invention

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SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Invention

POWER TRANSMISSION

2. Claims

What is Claimed is:

A power transmission apparatus comprising:

a pair of transmission shafts capable of free relative rotation; a friction clutch for connecting said shafts; a motor capable of external operation; and a cam for engaging said friction clutch and converting a torque of said motor to thrust, wherein

portions which do not convert thrust into torque are provided step-wise on a cam surface of said cam.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

[Object of the Invention]

(Field of Industrial Applicability)

The present invention relates to a power transmission apparatus used in automotive vehicles and the like.

(Description of the Related Art)

An actuator for friction engaging device is described in Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Sho 63-203958. This apparatus converts torque of a motor into thrust, operates a multiple disk clutch disposed between a pair of transmission shafts and governs interrupting and transmitting torque between the transmission shafts.

(Problem that the Invention Aims to Solve)

Although converting torque of the motor to thrust is done by means of a ball screw, normal screw and the like, when a ball screw is used a reverse direction torque due to a reactive force from the multiple disk clutch is applied to the motor via the ball screw. Accordingly, since a pressing force is lost when electric current is cut, an engaging force cannot be maintained constant unless current is continuously flowed to the motor during pressing. Hence, there is a concern that the motor field coil will burn up when current is flowed in a state where the rotor is fixed.

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Also, when a normal screw or a worm gear are used to prevent reverse rotation, efficiency is impaired, a large horse power motor is required and energy consumption is increased.

Here, an object of the present invention is to provide a power transmission apparatus in which an engaging force of a friction clutch is maintained even if electric current of the motor is cut, and in which a similar engaging force (transmission torque) may be obtained with a comparatively small horsepower motor.

[Constitution of the Invention]

(Means for Solving the Problem)

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a power transmission apparatus including:

a pair of transmission shafts capable of free relative rotation; a friction clutch for connecting the shafts; a motor capable of external operation; and a carn for engaging the friction clutch and converting a torque of the motor to thrust, wherein

portions which do not convert thrust into torque are provided step-wise on a cam surface of the cam.

(Operation

When the motor is cycled, the torque is converted into thrust by means of the cam, the friction clutch is pressed and engaged and a transfer portion is linked. At this time, if rotation of the motor is stopped at a location where a cam-follower contacts portions which do not covert thrust into torque, for example, concave portions or flat portions, provided on a surface of the cam, is possible to gradually engage the friction clutch at different strengths. Moreover, because the cam does not reverse at this time, the engaging force may be maintained even if electric current of the motor is cut. Particularly in the case where the concave portions are provided, a stable engaging force is maintained because the cam follower engages these concave portions to be positioned in the rotating direction.

(Embodiments)

An embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2. FIG. 2 shows a power system of an automotive vehicle used in this embodiment. Herein under, a longitudinal direction is the longitudinal direction in the respective drawing, and the left side in FIG. 1 corresponds to the front side (upper side in FIG. 2) of an automotive vehicle. Furthermore, members and the like which are not assigned reference numerals are not shown in the drawings.

First, in explaining the automotive vehicle power system of FIG. 2, the power system includes an engine 1, a transmission 3, a transfer 5, the power transmission apparatus 7 of the present invention, a propeller shaft 9 for the front wheels, a front diff 11 (differential device for the front wheels), front axles 13, 15, bilateral front wheels 17, 19, a propeller shaft 21 for the rear wheels, a rear diff 23 (differential device for the rear wheels), rear axles 25, 27, bilateral rear wheels 29, 31 and the like.

Next, a construction of the power transmission apparatus 7 will be explained. A housing 33 is mounted inside a case of the transfer 5. A hollow input shaft 35 (transmission shaft) is supported so as to be capable of rotating at an opening portion provided at a left end of the housing 33 via a bearing 37. A ring gear 39 is fixed to the input shaft 35 outside the housing 33. The gear 39 is rotatably driven by driving force from the transmission 1. An output shaft 45 (transmission shaft) is inserted in the input shaft 35 so as to be capable of free relative rotation. The output shaft 45 is connected at the propeller shaft 9-side and transfers driving force of the engine 1 to the front wheels 17, 19-side. A seal 47 is disposed between the input shaft 35 and output shaft 45.

In an interior of the housing 33, clutch drums 49, 51 are formed at right-end portions of the input /output shafts 35, 35, respectively. Internal external friction plates 57, 59 are alternately disposed at splines 53, 55 formed at each drum and are engaged so as to be capable of moving in an axial direction, and a multiple disk clutch 61 (friction clutch) is thus constructed. A pressure ring(s) 63 is disposed at the left-end portion of the multiple disk clutch 61.

A motor 67 capable of reverse rotation is mounted to an outer portion of a right side wall 65 of the housing 33, and a gear 71 is formed at a tip of a rotor spindle 69 which passes through the side wall 63. Also, a cam ring 75 is supported so as to be capable of rotating at an inner side of the right side wall 65 via

Comment: This should either be "transmission 3" or "engine 1".

Comment: This should be "side wall

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a bearing 73. A gear 77 is formed at a circumferential portion of the cam ring 75, and the gear 77 meshes with the gear 71 of the rotor spindle 69. Accordingly, the cam ring 75 may be reversibly driven by the motor 67. The motor 67 is constructed such that activation, normal rotation, reverse rotation, stopping etc. are performed automatically based on steering conditions, road surface conditions and the like.

As can be seen in FIGS. 1 (b), (c), (d), a cam(s) 79 is formed on a left-side surface of the cam ring 75. Concave portions 83 are formed at equal intervals in a plurality of locations along a taper portion 81, as shown in FIG. (e) which miniaturized in the axial direction and expanded in the height direction. Such a cam 79 is formed in three (3) pieces in a direction of the taper. As shown in FIG. 1 (d), a highest point 85 of each cam 79 and a lowest point 87 of an adjacent cam 79 are connected via a relatively steep, compared to the taper portion 81, taper portion 89. In each cam 79, a ball 91 which is a cam follower is supported so as to be capable of rotating in each cam surface, as shown in FIG. 1 (b). Each ball is maintained at an equal interval in a circumferential direction by means of a retainer 93.

A moving ring 95 is connected so as to be to be moveable in an axial direction inside the housing 33 by means of a spline portion 97. Concave spherical portions 99 are provided in a right-side surface of the ring 95 and a respective ball 91 is engaged so as to be capable of rotating in each concave portion 99. A needle bearing ring 101, ring 103, return spring 105 and pressure ring 107 of the multiple disk clutch 61 are disposed contacting one another at a left side of the moving ring 95 to construct a pressure transmission system. Thus, a power transmission apparatus 7 is constructed.

Accordingly, when the cam ring 75 is rotated by the motor 67, the balls 91 raises the cam surface of the cam 79 and this thrust presses and engages the multiple disk clutch 61 via the above mentioned transmission system. When the multiple disk clutch 61 is engaged, the input shaft 35 and output shaft 45 are connected and a driving force from the engine 1 is transferred to the front wheels 17, 19. When the cam ring 75 is rotated in the opposite direction, the balls 91 lower the cam surface which is moved to the right by energization of the return spring 105 and the engaging force of the multiple disk clutch 61 is weakened or the clutch is opened. Rotating the cam ring 75 in the engaging direction increases, and rotating opposite the engaging direction decreases, the engaging force of the multiple disk clutch 61 and transmission torque of the front wheels.

When the balls 91 are engaged with the concave portions 83 of the cam 79 in accordance with rotation of the cam ring 75, reactive thrust from the multiple disk clutch 61 is not converted into torque and the ring 75 is not rotated. Accordingly, here, the engaging force of the multiple disk clutch 61 is maintained even if the electric current of the motor 67 is cut; and since the balls 91 are positioned this way on the cam 79, the engagement state is stable. When the ball 91 is in the vicinity of the highest point 85 of the cam 79 and the cam ring 79 is further rotated in the engaging direction, the ball 91 falls down the taper portion 89 and moves to the lowest point 87 and it is possible to open the multiple disk clutch 61 at once.

Hence, by rotating the cam 75 and engaging the balls 91 in each concave portion 83, it is possible to stabilize and engage the multiple disk clutch 61 with gradual strength, and it is also possible to cut the electric current of the motor in each engagement state. Accordingly, there is no fear that the motor 67 will burn up and power consumption may be reduced. Also, since a conversion ratio of torque \rightarrow thrust is high compared to the conventional example of a normal screw or worm gear, the motor 67 may be small in size and have a small torque.

Moreover, as shown in FIG. 1 (f), flat portions 115 may also be formed in a rotating direction of a cam ring 113 part way along taper portions 111 of a cam 109, similar to the concave portions 83 on the cam 79.

Next, functioning of this embodiment will be described with reference to the power performance of the automotive vehicle of FIG. 2.

An automotive vehicle is put into a four wheel drive (4WD) driving state when the multiple disk clutch 61 of the power transmission apparatus is engaged. Since the rear wheels 29, 31 are directly driven by the engine 1, a drive force distribution ratio between the front and rear wheels may be selectively changed if the transmission torque of the multiple disk clutch 61 is adjusted, and automotive vehicle power characteristics may be controlled as below.

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That is, a differential limiting-amount of the front and rear wheels increases as the engagement force of the multiple disk clutch 61 becomes stronger and direct stability characteristics of the automotive vehicle increase. Also, even if the rear wheel 29, 31-side should slip, driving characteristics of the vehicle are maintained because driving force is transferred to the front wheel 17, 19-side. Maneuverability is increased in an automotive vehicle permitting a differential between front and rear tires when engaging force of the multiple disk clutch 61 weakens, and the phenomenon of tight corner braking is prevented.

Driving force transfer to the front wheel-side is interrupted when the multiple disk clutch 61 is opened and a rear wheel drive, two (2) wheel driving state comes about, and, together with obtaining those sort of driving characteristics, fuel consumption also improves compared to when traveling in 4WD.

As stated above, the engaging state of the multiple disk clutch 61 is stable and there is no change in the engaging force due to vibration and the like while traveling.

[Effects of the Invention]

Accordingly, the power transmission apparatus of the present invention is constructed so as to covert the torque of a motor into thrust by means of the cam and engage the multiple disk clutch. Hence, the motor may be small in size. Also, portions which do not covert thrust reactive force into torque are provided step-wise on the cam surface. Hence, the engaging force (transmission torque) of the multiple disk clutch may be gradually increased and decreased, and since the electric current of the motor may be cut in each engaging state, the motor is prevented from burning up and power consumption may be reduced.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGS. 1 relate to an embodiment and, (a) is a cross sectional view, (b) is a cross section taken along line A-A in (a), (c) is a cross section taken along line B-B in (b), (d) is a development of the cam, (e) is a partially enlarged drawing of the longitudinal direction in (d), (f) is a development showing another construction of the cam, and FIG. 2 is a skeleton structure diagram showing a power system of an automotive vehicle used in the embodiment of FIG. 1(a).

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60発明の名称 動力伝達装置

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頤 平1(1989)7月31日 29出

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1. 発明の名称

勿出 願

動力伝達装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

相対回転自在な一対の伝達軸と、これらを連結 する摩擦クラッチと、外部操作可能なモータと、 このモータの回転力をスラスト力に変換して前記 摩擦クラッチを締結するカムとを備え、このカム のカム面にはスラスト力を回転力に変換しない部 分が段階的に設けられていることを特徴とする動 力伝達装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

[発明の目的]

(産業上の利用分野)

この発明は、車両などに用いられる動力伝達 装置に関する。

(従来の技術)

特開昭63-203958号公報に"摩擦係 合装置用アクチュエータ。が記載されている。こ れはモータの回転力をスラスト力に変換し、一対 の伝達軸間に配置された多板クラッチを操作し、 これら伝達輪間の断続及び伝達トルクの調節を行 う装置である。

(発明が解決しようとする課題)

モータの回転力のスラスト力への変換は、ポ ールネジ、通常のネジなどで行われるが、ポール ネジを用いると多板クラッチからの反力によりポ ールオジを介してモータに逆方向の回転力が掛か る。従って電流を切ると押圧力が失われるから押 圧中はモータに電流を流し続けないと締結力を一 定に保てない。このようにロータを固定した状態 で電旗を流すとモータのフィールドコイルが焼損 する恐れがある。

又、逆転を防止する為通常のネジやウォームギ ヤを使用すると効率が悪く、馬力の大きいモータ が必要となり消費電力が大きくなる。

そこで、この免明は、モータの電流を切っても 摩擦クラッチの締結力が保護され、比較的小馬力 のモータで同一の締結力(伝達トルク)か得られ る動力伝達装置の提供を目的とする。

[発明の構成]

(課題を解決するための手段)

この発明の動力伝達装置は、相対回転自在な一対の伝達軸と、これらを連結する摩擦クラッチと、外部操作可能なモータと、このモータの回転力をスラスト力に変換して前記摩擦クラッチを締結するカムとを備え、このカムのカム面にはスラストカを回転力に変換しない部分が段階的に設けられていることを特徴とする。

(作用)

ハウジング33の内部において、これら入出力 铀35、45の右端部にはそれぞれクラッチドラ ム49、51が形成されている。各ドラムに形 されたスプライン53、55には交互に配置され た内外の摩擦板57、59が軸方向移動自在に係 合し、多板クラッチ61(摩擦クラッチ)が構成 されている。多板クラッチ61の左端部には受圧 リング63が設置されている。 カムフォロワがこの凹部に係合することにより回転方向に位置決めされた状態になるから締結力は 安定して保持される。

(実施例)

第1 図と第2 図により一実施例の説明をする。 第2 図はこの実施例を用いた車両の動力系を示す。 以下、左右の方向はこれらの図面の左右の方向で あり、第1 図の左方はこの車両の前方(第2 図の 上方)に相当する。又、番号を附していない部材 等は図示されていない。

先ず、第2図の車両の動力系の説明をすると、この動力系はエンジン1、トランスは選置で、トランスファ5、この実施例の動力伝達装置で、防輪側のプロペラシャフトの、プロント車輪13、15、左右の前輪17、19、後輪側のプロペラシャフト21、リヤデフ23(後輪側のデファレンシャル装置)、後車輪25、27、左右の後輪

次に動力伝達装置7の構成を説明する。ハウジ

カムリング 7 5 の左側面には、第 1 図(b) (c) (d) に示すように、カム 7 9 を形成している。カム 7 9 には、同図(e)に軸方向を縮小し、高さ方向に拡大して示したように、テーパ部8 1 の途中複数 歯所に凹部8 3 が 等間隔に形成されている。このようなカム 7 9 はテーパの方 を請えて、3 個形成されている。同図(d)に示すように、各カム 7 9 の最高点8 5 と隣りのカム 7

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9の最低点 8 7 はテーパ部 8 1 と比べて 8 なテーパ部 8 9 を介して連続している。 各 カム 7 9 には、同図 (b) に示すように、 カムフォロワであるポール 9 1 が各 カム面に回転日在に当接している。各ポール 9 1 はリテーナ 9 3 により周方向 等間隔に保持されている。

従って、モータ67によりカムリング75を回転させると、ボール91がカム79のカム面を上昇しこのスラストカは上記の伝達系を介して多板クラッチ61を押圧し締結させる。多板クラッチ

して最低点87に移動し多板クラッチ61を一気 に開放することができる。

こうして、カムリング75を回転させポール91を各凹部83に係合させることにおりまさせる。 ッチ61を段階的な独結状態ではモータ677ができると共に各籍結状態ではモータ677ができる。従って、モータ677が焼扱恐れがない上に電力消費を低減できる。又、ギャムは、従来例のようストカの変換効率が高いた。トルクが小さくてすみモータ67を小型にできる。

なお、第1図(!)に示すように、カム79に おける凹部83と同様にカム109のテーパ部1 11の途中にカムリング113の回転方向にフラットな部分115を形成してもよい。

次にこの実施例の機能を第2図の車両の動力性能に即して説明する。

動力伝達装置7の多板クラッチ61を締結する と車両は4輪駅動 (4WD) 走行状態になる。後 カムリング 7 5 の回転に伴ってポーク 9 1 が 6 1 7 7 9 の凹部 8 3 に保って多数 2 され 5 のの 5 を 2 を 2 で 4 も 5 に 2 で 5 を 3 に 4 に 5 に 5 を 3 に 4 に 5 に 5 を 5 を 6 1 が 7 7 8 2 に 6 1 で 7 7 8 2 に 6 1 で 7 7 8 2 に 6 1 で 7 8 9 1 に 7 8 9 に

輪29、31はエンジン1によりダイレクト駆動されるから多板クラッチ61の伝達トルクを調節すれば前後輪間の駆動力配分割合を任意に変えて、下記のように車両の動力特性をコントロールすることができる。

すなわち、多板クラッチ61の締結力を強める程前後輪間の差動制限量が大きくなり車両の直進安定性が増す。又、後輪29、31側がスリップ状態になっても前輪17、19側に駆動力が伝達されるから車両の走破性は維持される。多板クラッチ61の締結力を弱めると前後輪間の差動が許容され車両の旋回性が増しタイトコーナブレーキング現象が防止される。

多板クラッチ 6 1 を開放すると前輪側への駆動力伝達が遮断され、後輪駆動の 2 輪駆動走行状態となり、そのような動力特性が得られると共に 4 W D 走行時に較べて燃費が向上する。

上記のように、多板クラッチ 6 1 の締結状態は 安定しており走行中の振動などによって締結力が 変化することはない。

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79.109 -- # 4

[発明の効果]

以上のように、この発明の動力伝達装置は、そ - タの回転力をカムでスラストカに変換し多板ク ラッチを締結するように構成したから、モータを 小型にできる。又、カム面上にスラスト反力を回 転力に変換しない部分を段階的に設けたから、多 板クラッチの締結力 (伝達トルク) を段階的に増 減することができ、各籍結状態においてはモータ の電流を切ることができるからモータの焼損が防 止され、電力消費を低減できる。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は一実施例に関し、(a)は断面図、 (b) は (a) の A - A 断面図、 (c) は (b) の B - B 断面図、 (d) はカムの展開図、 (e) は(d)の縦方向部分拡大図、(f)はカムの他 の態様を示す展開図、第2図は第1図(a)の実 施例を用いた車両の動力系を示すスケルトン機構 図である。

35 ... 入力軸 (伝達軸)

45…出力軸(伝達軸)

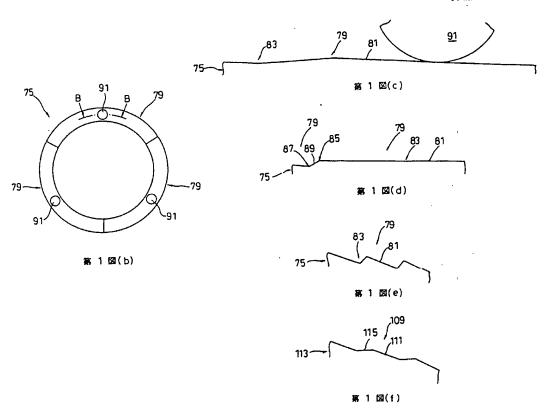
1 1 5 … フラット部 83…四部

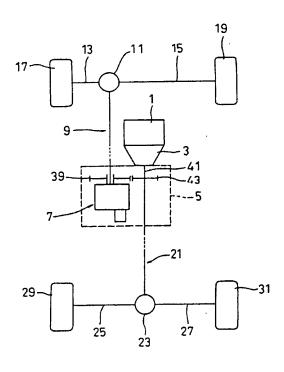
6 1 … 多板クラッチ (摩擦クラッチ)

弁理士 代理人

67

第 1 図(a)





第 2 図